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information report

CD NO.

COUNTRY -Iran

DATE DISTR.

1. Replacement of Skoda Officials

2. Activities of Czech Charge Slansky to Obtain Recall of Anti-Communist Czech

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- 1. On 28 February 1949 Zalud(fmu), Smejkal(fmu), and Kuchinka(fmu), representing the Czechoslovak firm of Skoda, arrived in Tehran for a fifteen days visit, for the purpose of inspecting the Skoda firm.
- 2. The Czech Legation in Tehran is attempting to get permission from the Iranian Foreign Office for the above-named individuals to obtain Iranian visas. If it is possible to get the visas, Snejkal and Kuchinka, whom informant believes to be either Communists or pro-Communists, will be officers of Skoda in Tehran, replacing the "politically unreliable" elements now with that firm.
- 3. Zalud was originally slated to assume the management of Skoda in Tehran, although there is an alternative possibility that he will be appointed Commercial Attaché at the Czech Legation, informant states. Zalud is playing an important role in the formulation of Czechoslovakia's commercial policy in Iran. Strong evidence indicates that Zalud is regularly consulted, and may be the ultimate authority on cornercial matters relating to Iran. It is informant's belief that Zalud is highly placed in the Czech Communist Party hierarchy and wields influence out of proportion to his present ostensible capacity as Skods officer.
- 4. The present Director General of Skoda, Iran, Vojtech Zapleta, who has been recalled to Prague, presumably to be separated from Skoda because of his known hostility to the Communist regime, has thus far refused to go. Instead, he has applied for Iranian citizenship. Czech Charge d'Affaires Richard Slansky (who subsequently was rocalled to Prague in another connection) has attempted to spread rumors that Zapleta is a Communist who has kept his affiliation secret, in order to work clandestinely in Iran. Slansky has taken special pains to see that this information reaches the Iranian police, so that they will not allow Zapleta to remain in Iran.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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- 5. During the first week in April 1949 Skoda Deputy Chief Jaroslav Süchochleb was asked to leave Iran within forty-eight hours by the Iranian police, on grounds of his Communist activities. Because of his wife's health, he was granted a two weeks extension. At approximately the same time Joseph Janousek, a Skoda employee and a Communist or Communist sympathizer, and Iri(sic) Neuberg, a staunch Communist who replaced Otto Steiner as head of the Iran-Czech Trading Company (Irczech Company), the Skoda sales organization in Tehran, were told to leave Iran for the same reason.
- 6. On 12 April 1949 the Czech Charge d'Affaires (Slansky) informed the Czech Foreign Office that he had protested strongly to the Iranian Foreign Office the police order expelling the Skoda officers mentioned above. According to informant, the Iranian Foreign Hinister promised to investigate the causes for the police order and stated that, if there should prove to be insufficient evidence incriminating the three Skoda officers, they would not be required to leave Iran.
- 7. Slansky has attempted to discredit a Czech student at Tehran University, Borecky(fmu), by spreading rumors that in reality Borecky is a Communist who has kept his affiliation secret, in order to work covertly in Iran.
- 8. On 12 April 1949 Slansky informed the Czech Foreign Office that in a "note verbale" to the Iranian Foreign Office he had requested that the Iranian Government acquiesce in the recall of Borecky. According to informant, Borecky is violently anti-Communist and has no intention of returning to Czechoslovakia.
- 9. Slansky stated that the Czech Government would insist strongly on the Iranian Government's cooperation in returning Borecky, although the Iranian Foreign Minister replied that his Government had no objection to Borecky remaining in Iran if he chose to do so.

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